

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2418

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2943

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP ON OWEN "INVASION" STORY

REF: PRETORIA 2893

AUGUST 5 JOHANNESBURG STAR CARRIES FOLLOW-UP TO
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KEN OWEN'S STORY STATING
SECRETARY KISSINGER EXPECTS SOUTH AFRICA TO BE
INVADED WITHIN FEW YEARS. ARTICLE REPORTS DEPT.
DENIAL OF COMMENT, BUT STATES THAT CONGRESSMAN CLAIR
BURGENER CONFIRMED SUBSTANCE OF ALLEGED COMMENT.
TEXT FOLLOWS:

1. "A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE YESTERDAY
DENIED THE SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, HAD
TOLD A BREAKFAST MEETING OF AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN THAT HE
EXPECTED SOUTH AFRICA TO BE INVADED FROM THE NORTH IN A
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FEW YEARS.

2. "THE DENIAL WAS ISSUED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH DR. KISSINGER AND AFTER A SEARCH OF STATE DEPARTMENT RECORDS FAILED TO TURN UP A REFERENCE TO THE COMMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

3. " BUT RELIABLE SOURCES CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT DR. KISSINGER HAD MADE THE REMARK, AND THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS COMMENT WAS CONFIRMED BY CONGRESSMAN CLAIR BURGENER OF CALIFORNIA.

4. "THE CONGRESSMAN, A FIRST-TERM REPUBLICAN, RAISED THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WITH DR. KISSINGER, THE SOURCES SAID.

5. "ASKED TO CONFIRM DR. KISSINGER'S STATEMENT, CONGRESSMAN BURGENER SAID DR. KISSINGER DID HAVE FEARS OF SUCH AN INVASION, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO QUOTE HIM.

6. "CONGRESSMAN BURGENR
PLEADED FOR SUPPRESSION OF
DR. KISSINGER'S COMMENT, BUT HE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO
DENY IT. ON THE CONTRARY, HE SAID: 'DR. KISSINGER
DOES HAVE SOME FEAR OF INVASION FROM THE NORTH, BUT HE
DOESN'T KNOW THE AREA VERY WELL. I DON'T SHARE HIS FEARS.'

7. "THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S BLAND DENIAL OF THE COMMENT IS NOT SURPRISING. IN THE VIEW OF VETERAN OBSERVERS HERE THE REMARK, COMING FROM SO EMINENT AN OFFICIAL, WAS SO OUTRAGEOUS A STATEMENT ABOUT A SUPPOSEDLY FRIENDLY COUNTRY THAT THERE WAS LITTLE ALTERNATIVE.

8. "WHAT IS QUESTIONALBE IS WHETHER THE SECRETARY OF STATE ACTUALLY HOLDS SO PESSIMISTIC A VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE, OR WHETHER HE WAS MERELY TRYING TO CUT OFF DISCUSSION OF SOUTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS."
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